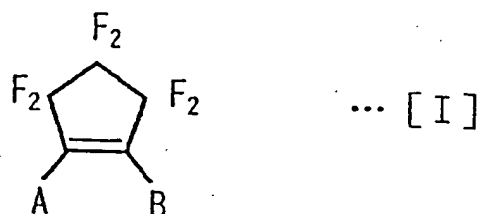


Amendments to the Claims

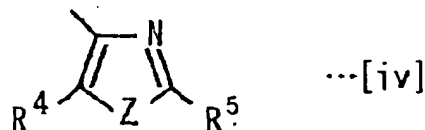
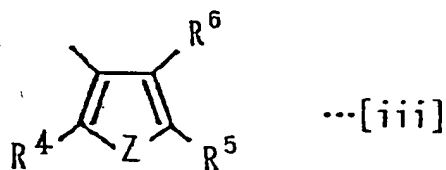
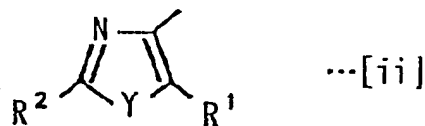
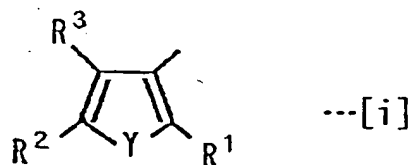
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A photochromic material comprising a compound having a ring opening quantum yield of 10^{-3} or lower, belonging to the diheteroarylethene class, represented by the following general formula [I]:



wherein, in the general formula [I], A represents the following substituents [i] or [ii], and B represents the following substituents [iii] or [iv];



wherein, in the substituents [i] and [ii], R¹ represents an alkoxy group, R² represents -Q-Ar, Q representing a direct bond or an arbitrary divalent group and Ar representing an aromatic

hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Y represents -O- or -S-; and

in the substituents [iii] and [iv], R^4 represents an alkoxy group, R^5 represents -Q-Ar, Q representing a direct bond or an arbitrary divalent group and Ar representing an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Z represents -O- or -S-.

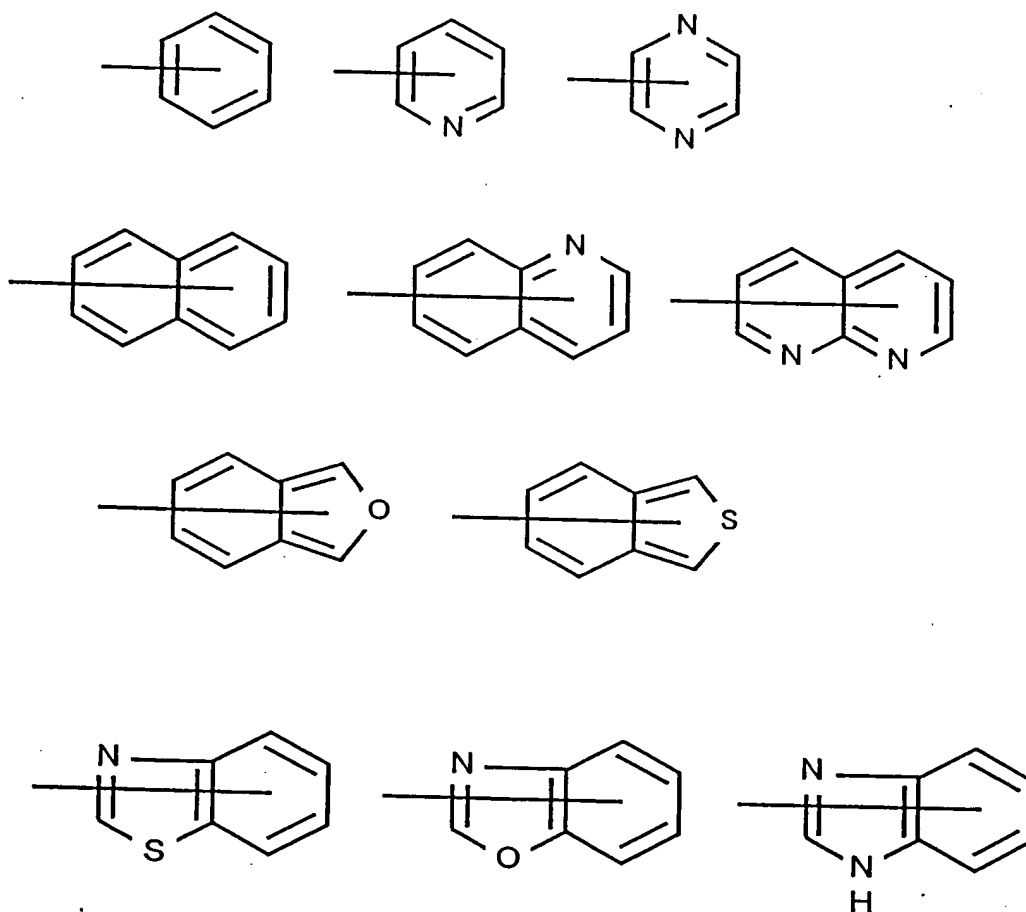
2. (currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring opening quantum yield is 10^{-3} 3.3×10^{-4} or lower.

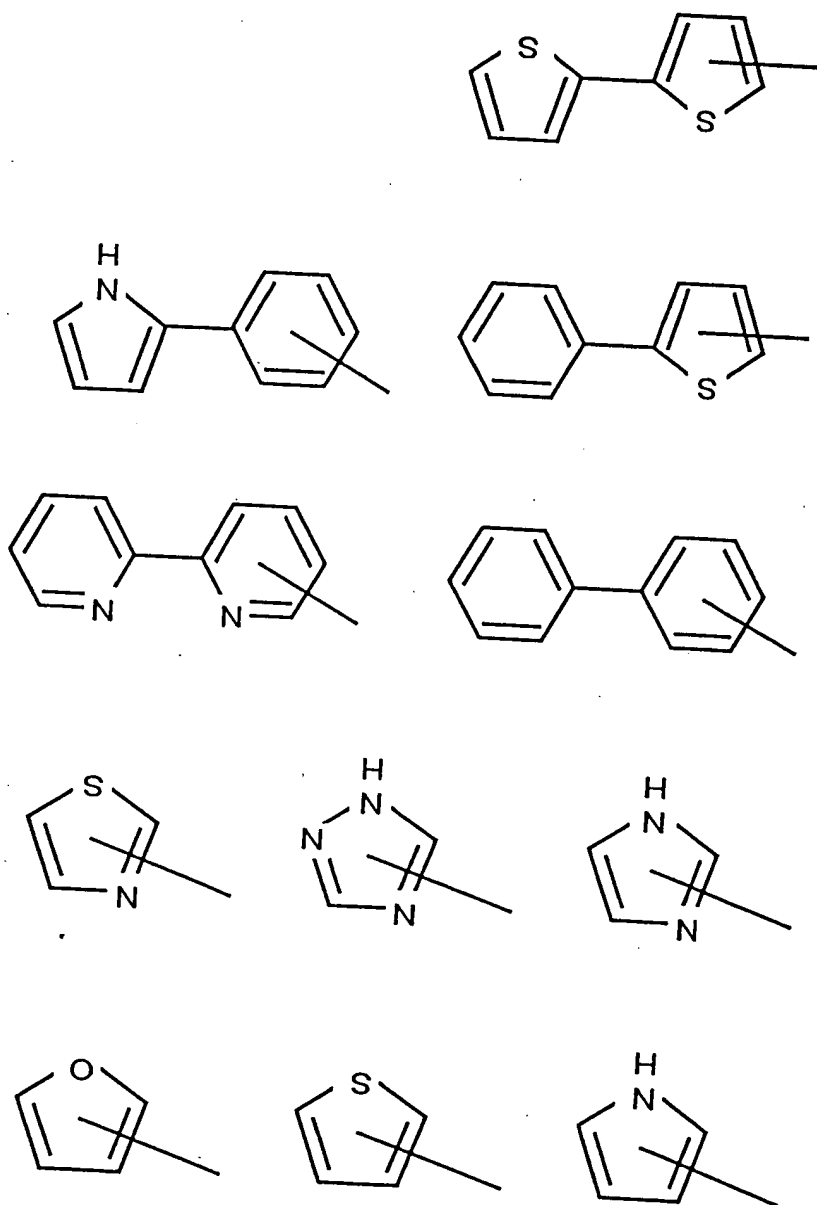
3. (original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^4 in the substituents [i]-[iv] of said general formula [I] each comprise independently an alkoxy group having 1-3 carbon atoms.

4. (original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^4 each comprise a methoxy group.

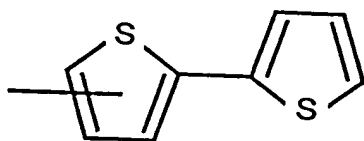
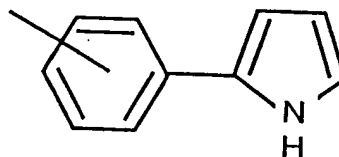
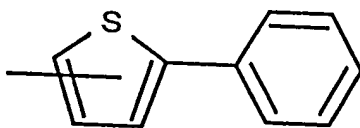
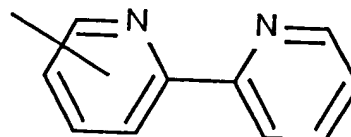
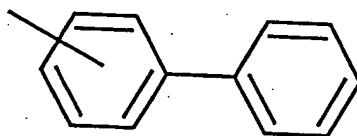
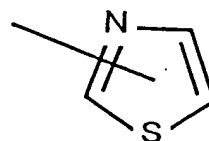
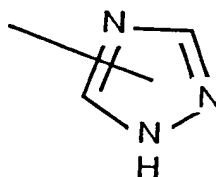
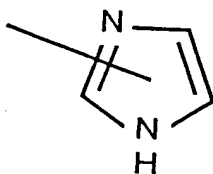
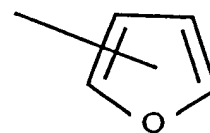
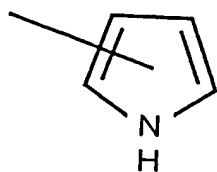
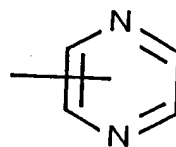
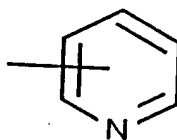
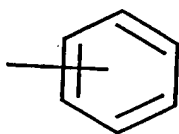
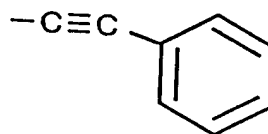
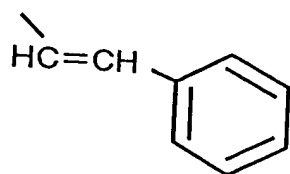
5. (currently amended) A photochromic material described in claim 1 wherein Q in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 in the substituents [i]-[iv] of said general formula [I] each comprise independently a direct bond, $-(CH=CH)_n-$ ~~(i.e. a polyethylene group)~~ (wherein $n = 1-5$), or ~~$-(C\equiv C)_n-$~~ $-(C\equiv C)_n-$ ~~(i.e. a polyacetylene group)~~ (wherein $n = 1-5$), whereby Ar comprises a single 5- or 6-member ring, or two or three 5- or 6-member rings directly bonded or condensed, each of said rings being optionally substituted.

6. (original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein Ar in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 is selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:





7. (currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein R^2 and R^5 are each selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:



8. (previously presented) A photochromic material described in claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^6 each comprise independently a linear alkyl group.

9. (currently amended) A photochromic material described in claim 1, wherein the photochromic material comprises a compound, belonging to the diheteroarylethene class, selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:

